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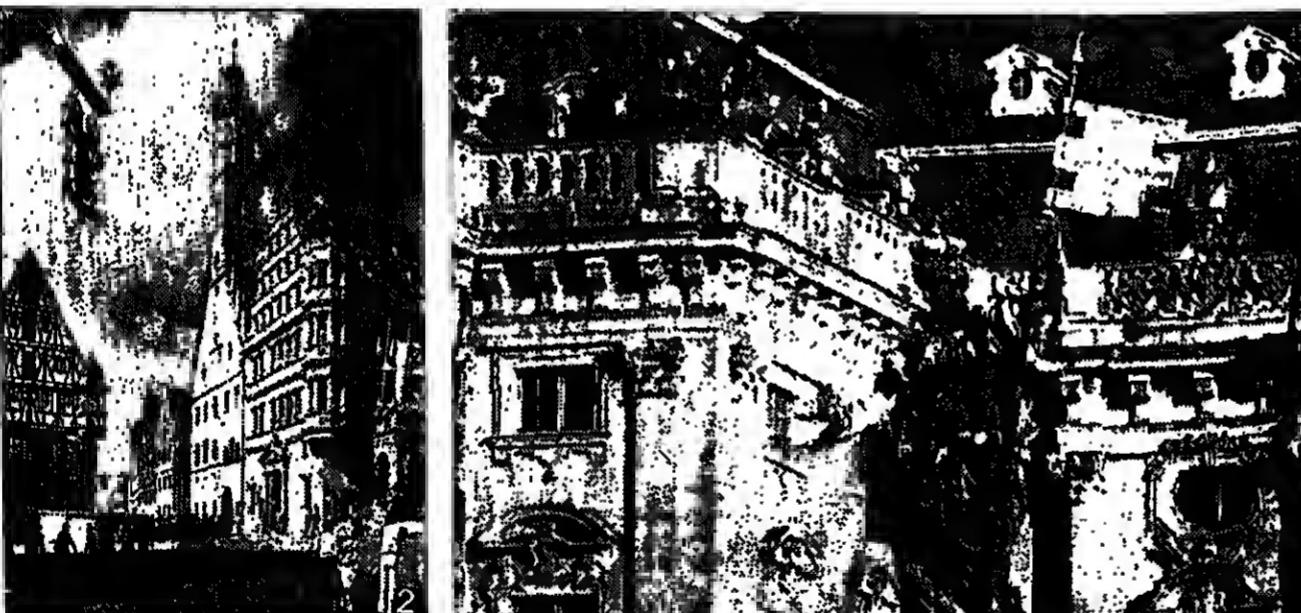
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Hamburg, 3 April 1988
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DEPOSE A BX X

Bonn makes conventional disarmament proposals

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The Warsaw Pact and Nato have repeatedly professed their support for disarmament.

The MFR talks in Vienna on the mutual balanced force reduction in Central Europe, in progress for 14 years, have not produced the desired results.

So both sides feel the time has come for a new line of approach.

Its aim is disarmament from the Atlantic to the Urals, in line with the proposal put forward by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov.

The 23 Warsaw Pact and Nato member-states are envisaged as negotiating partners.

Efforts are currently under way to elaborate a negotiating mandate, an agreement on the exact terms of reference for negotiations.

Nato members must first clarify their own ideas and reach agreement on a disarmament concept. The Foreign Ministers agreed on this in Reykjavik last year.

The Bonn government — the driving force in this process — has adopted a concept and presented it to fellow Nato members for discussion.

Bonn's disarmament proposal seeks to reduce to parity the conventional forces of the Warsaw Pact and Nato in Central Europe.

The term "Central Europe" has been redefined. It refers to Europe stretching in West-East direction from the Atlantic to the Urals, excluding the area north of the Elbe and south of the Alps as well as the military districts of Leningrad and Odessa.

Bonn justifies this demarcation by claiming that it does not want to make proposals which could in any way give the impression that it is making up its alliance partners' for them.

The groundwork for the disarmament proposal made it clear how great the discrepancy is between an abstract profession of support for asymmetrical disarmament to a low a parity level as possible and the elaboration of a concrete proposal.

Bonn's concept envisages a scaling down on both sides to 46 "division equivalents" and a total of 14,000 battle tanks, 7,500 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 7,500 field guns.

For Nato, this would mean a reduction of 800 battle tanks, 400 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 400 field guns. Nine-thousand soldiers could then be sent home.

The Warsaw Pact would have to cut back its armed forces by 25,000 battle

tanks, 11,000 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 22,000 artillery field guns; 220,000 soldiers could be sent home.

Nato would have to disband two of its 48 divisions, whereas the Warsaw Pact would have to eliminate 80 of its 126 divisions.

One high-ranking Bonn government representative quite rightly asked whether the Warsaw Pact is likely to be willing to do this.

If Moscow claims to support the objective of asymmetrical disarmament of conventional forces to parity levels and maintains that the funds previously used for Soviet troops should be channelled into the modernisation of the Soviet economy the Kremlin must take these proposals seriously.

A cutback from 48 to 46 divisions on the western side would leave Nato with 95 per cent of its currently stationed troop level in Central Europe.

The question why the proposal does not set out to reduce Nato's own arms level any further is answered with reference to the need to retain defensive capability.

Disarmament to 75 per cent of the current equipment level would already "disorganise" the defence of the Federal Republic of Germany, the experts say.

Before the Warsaw Pact makes a move, however, the concept forwarded by the Bonn government must be accepted by the other Nato partners.

Reservations exist, for example, with regard to the introduction of armoured infantry combat vehicles as a "main arms category" in negotiations alongside the battle tanks and artillery field guns.

Some alliance partners are currently equipping their armies with new armoured infantry combat vehicles and are not keen on scrapping them again straight away.

The difficulties involved in developing a clear definition of what an armoured infantry combat vehicle is will probably cause greater problems.

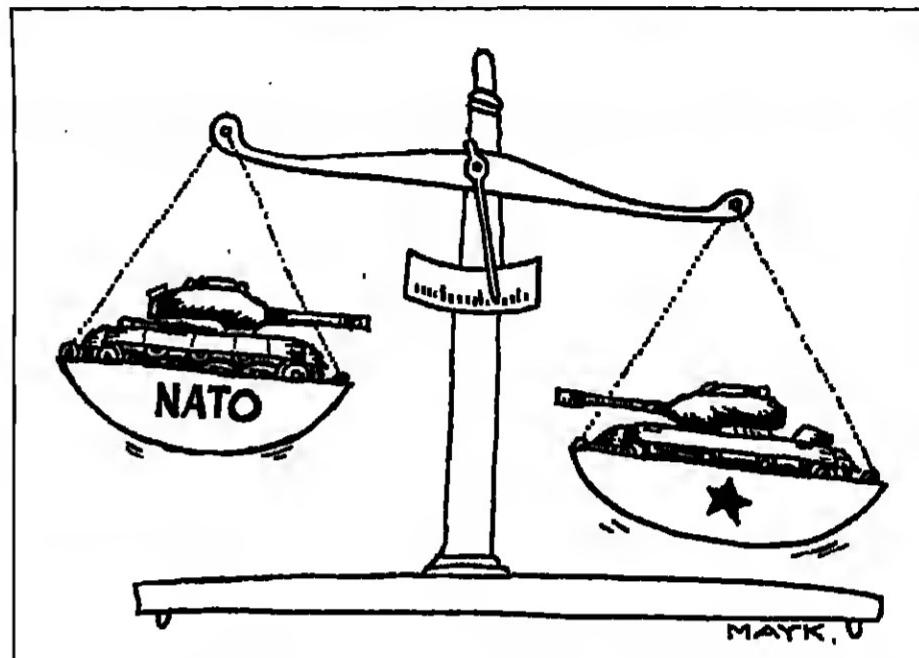
Bonn feels the inclusion of this arms category is absolutely essential.

Modern vehicles in this category are equipped with guns which are comparable with the equipment of battle tanks in the Second World War.

Bonn's concept envisages a scaling down on both sides to 46 "division equivalents" and a total of 14,000 battle tanks, 7,500 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 7,500 field guns.

For Nato, this would mean a reduction of 800 battle tanks, 400 armoured infantry combat vehicles and 400 field guns. Nine-thousand soldiers could then be sent home.

The Warsaw Pact would have to cut back its armed forces by 25,000 battle



(Cartoon: Mayk - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

Together with mobile artillery they could be used for fast and extensive operations.

Their deployment, therefore, serves the most important objective of conventional disarmament: the elimination of invasion capability.

Altogether, the German proposal would like to see four aspects accepted as criteria in negotiations.

First, the main arms categories should be tanks, artillery above 10-centimetre calibre and the armoured infantry combat vehicles.

Nato could only increase the number of divisions to 31 during that time.

The extrapolation of the time axis shows that the superiority of the Warsaw Pact remains.

After 20 days it could deploy almost 100 division equivalents, whereas the Warsaw Pact could make 68 divisions operational during the same period, jacking up this figure to 86 in the three subsequent days.

Nato could only respond with at most 48 divisions after that period. Bonn feels that reducing the number of divisions is not enough to offset this imbalance.

Delaying effects, it says, should be included in the deployment structure of the remaining divisions, for example, via the storage of part of their equipment in depots which are far behind the front line.

Differences have already emerged between the ideas of the Warsaw Pact and Nato even before a negotiating mandate has been drawn up.

According to Western experts Moscow would like to see tactical-operational nuclear forces "organically included" in negotiations as well as respective air forces. Nato has reservations about both.

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■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Panama exemplifies the motives of US policy in Central America

Mango in Panama is not just a tropical fruit; it is a political slogan. It stands for "M(unuel) A(ntonio) Noriega go!" — the Opposition's demand for the resignation of the country's strong man.

General Noriega, commander of the Panamanian National Guard, has crushed one coup, but how long will he be able to hold on to power?

The citizen's crusade against his regime began last June. After initial hesitation the United States backed the Panamanian Opposition's demands and imposed economic and financial sanctions.

General Noriega, formerly associated with the CIA, has established links with the East Bloc and with Libya's Colonel Gaddafi.

In February he was indicted in Florida on charges of involvement in narcotics smuggling. He has now published letters written to him by the US Food and Drug Administration thanking him for his help in fighting drug-smuggling.

This one case demonstrates the paradox and dilemma of US policy toward Central America.

It consists for one of the pathos of a universal US mission in the service of freedom and democracy.

On 2 December 1983 President Monroe proclaimed that the Americas were no longer available for colonisation by European powers. The use of



oppression or force on American states that had declared their independence would be considered an unfriendly act toward the United States.

President Wilson's January 1918 14-Point Programme was a peace draft designed to make the world safe for democracy.

After the Second World War, in connection with Communist subversion in Greece, President Truman renewed Washington's pledge to support all free peoples threatened with subjugation.

In the mid-1980s there was a promising trend when, in 1984, a Christian Democrat came to power, defeating an extreme right-winger associated with the "death squads".

Dictatorship came to an end in Guatemala at the beginning of 1986. In Honduras civilian power changed bands.

With Presidents Duarte, Cerezo and Azevedo democracy and peace seemed to stand a chance in Central America.

Nicaragua, with its urge to export the Sandinist revolution, mainly in the form of logistical and military support for Marxist guerrillas in neighbouring countries, was felt to be a troublemaker.

Managua was felt to be a mischief-maker — both from Washington and in Central America itself.

After years of vain attempts by the Contadora Group President Arias of Costa Rica sought last year to reach agreement with all concerned.

Central America's fragile democracies were to be stabilized. Peace was to

be restored. US security needs were to be respected. The Sandinistas were to be offered face-saving terms.

The resumption of fighting on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua shows how tough this task is. Central America war has always been the rule — and peace the exception.

US military aid is to help the new democracies to ward off Marxist subversion. Economic aid is to make social reforms possible.

Not until social reforms have been implemented will the desire for peace and democracy take root.

But traditional willingness for violence in Central America, fuelled by arach sources, has joined forces with the brutality of guerrilla and low-intensity warfare.

Pacification of a region where feudal conditions and hectic attempts at modernization exist side by side, where the struggle and racial conflict intensify each other, is tantamount to squaring the circle.

There is agreement on one point only: that a US intervention would deprive any region of its legitimacy.

Despite the special US relationship with the country on either side of the Panama Canal this applies to Panamanian equal measure.

When General Noriega, a tinpot dictator, calls President Reagan's bluff & is bound to enjoy a measure of domestic support — and sympathy in neighbouring countries.

Washington finds it hard to make friends in Central America who have democratic credentials and political credibility. This is a historic burden the United States must bear.

Günther Neumannmacher
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
1st March 1988

Gulf War is in full swing again on all fronts

that an Israeli attack on Saudi Arabia would be rated as an attack on Egypt.

Saudi Arabia, which is not normally enthusiastic about publicity for its foreign policy, found itself beneath the bright lights for once and presented an argument it hoped would not appeal merely to devout Muslims.

The kingdom's sole concern, the Saudi authorities said, was to ensure the safety of the "holiest places in the world" — Mecca and Medina.

Israel in no way threatens their safety,

and medium-range missiles can hardly be aimed at Iranian pilgrims who will soon be bound for the Muslim holy places again in large numbers and are likely to propound Iranian revolutionary ideas there.

Saudi Arabia is equally unlikely to aim its missiles at Teheran, Isfahan or Ghom. Iran would immediately bombard the seawater desalination plant at Jubail which supplies Riyadh with drinking water.

So there can only be speculation as to the reason why Riyadh has agreed to buy rockets from China.

A while ago Riyadh withdrew from the north of the Arabian peninsula a defense force consisting largely of Pakistani soldiers and designed to ward off an Israeli attack.

It presumably did so to save the expense of employing Pakistani mercenaries. Maybe the missiles are intended to replace these ground forces. Maybe, for that matter, they are intended as an extra psychological support for the Saudi

royal family, which feels the kingdom faces constant internal and external threats.

But not only the buyer matters. China, the seller, has more in mind than economic gains; it has a political objective.

China, having supplied Iran with Silkworm missiles, now feels it has a political plateau on the Arab side in the Gulf War.

Powers that supply both sides with arms, the Chinese political calculation may well be, are entitled to a say on both sides.

On this plateau the sole Chinese charges so far, the Iranians, are continuing to play a shrewd game in both military and political terms.

Their relations with the Gulf states have improved almost at a stroke now, whether out of military weakness or as a political calculation, they have refrained from launching a further full-scale attack on Basra.

There have been no reports of bombardments (invariably attributed to Iran) in Kuwait for some time either. Kuwaiti politicians now see the possibility of a thaw in ties with Teheran.

Syria, Iraq's sole Arab ally, has sent its diplomats round the Gulf since the end of last year in a bid to bring about a political rapprochement between con-

servative Arab sheikhdoms and revolutionary Iran.

The Syrians will for one be hoping to raise further, badly-needed financial support from the Gulf states. They have no qualms about practically nullifying diplomatic moves by King Hussein of Jordan.

At the Amman Arab summit King Hussein tried hard to reconcile Syria and Iraq and forge a united Arab front against Iran.

Iraq already has fears of an Arab betrayal of its war against Iran and has embarked on unilateral confrontation with Syria.

On the military front it has stepped up its bombing and missile warfare, especially of Teheran. In a bid to sow doubt among the Iranian that it will have to sue for terms after all.

In the past these tactics have invariably proved a failure, so people could between the fronts and in the cities probably still have long to suffer the ravages of the Gulf War.

Haiko Földes

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 25 March 1988)

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■ PARTY POLITICS

Baden-Württemberg poses problems for all parties

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■ DEVELOPMENT AID

Bonn's seventh development policy report presented

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein (CSU) says Bonn's seventh development policy report reviews the most critical phase of international development cooperation yet.

It outlines development policy activities during the years 1985, 1986, and, to a certain extent, the first half of 1987.

He told the press in Bonn that more and more developing countries demonstrated their willingness to make courageous and painful structural adjustments during this period.

The report shows that the net transfer payments of industrialised countries as a whole declined during the review period. The indebtedness of developing countries continued to increase and their share of world trade decreased.

The report lists the objective obstacles to development, including some scathing criticism of the protectionism practised by industrialised countries.

Economic development in the majority of developing countries, says the report, has suffered a setback in the wake of the slump in raw materials prices.

There has been a marked decline in

Continued from page 4

Süssmuth, Helmut Geissler and Norbert Blüm, can cause irritation.

Conversely, the CDU would run a risk of much greater damage if it were to about-turn and pursue more conservative policies.

Just as the SPD has frayed at the edge on its left wing, losing support to the Greens, so the CDU has constant problems on its right wing.

But it cannot afford to panic and seek to appease passing fancies or protest votes.

A better strategy would be to identify social and societal weak spots, to pay greater heed to hardship and anxiety, to carry greater conviction and to indulge in fewer empty phrases.

*Signum Heilmann
(Mannheimer Morgen, 22 March 1988)*

There can be no doubt about it: the man at the head of the Bonn Economic Cooperation Ministry is breaking new ground.

Hans Klein has been in office for just one year and no-one now talks about employment-effective development aid, which served as a guiding principle for his predecessor in office, Jürgen Warneke.

Herr Klein's line of argument is correct. Capital and technical aid by the Bonn government can have a positive effect on employment.

But to make employment effectiveness a precondition for the granting of aid to the Third World is not in keeping with modern times.

The poorest of the poor countries have been unable to repay their debts for many years.

The Bonn government has drawn the reasonable and inevitable conclusion from this fact and decided to scrap its previous policy.

Partnership with Third World based on trade not aid

Bremmer Nachrichten

Instead, it plans to give the most underdeveloped countries more grants in future for projects which are unable anyway to provide the profits needed to repay loans, for example, school and hospital projects.

The development aid budget needs to be topped up to effect this policy change.

Taxpayers, therefore, have no cause for concern. Financially, everything stays as it was.

The loans already provided have not been paid back anyway.

(Bremmer Nachrichten, 17 March 1988)

the willingness of industrialised countries to invest in the Third World or trade protectionism.

Some countries, however, such as South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, had experienced the kind of economic upswing within the space of just one generation which took Western industrialised countries between 100 and 200 years to achieve.

These countries continued their pronounced economic growth during the review period.

According to the government report, more than 500 million people are threatened by famine in the Third World despite numerous successful attempts to boost agricultural production.

The report lists the following reasons for this situation in developing countries: misguided agricultural policies, the lack of means of production due to insufficient foreign exchange, a population growth which outstrips the production growth rate, and the widespread lack of purchasing power.

The risks emanating from the agricultural markets of industrialised countries are also described in the report.

They are the channelling of surpluses into inappropriate food supplies and subsidised agricultural exports, which force traditional foodstuffs in developing countries off the market and disrupt market mechanisms.

This and protectionist market regulation in industrialised countries impair the export opportunities of developing countries with efficient agricultural structures.

The external debt of developing countries at the end of 1986 exceeded the thousand billion dollar mark. The debt servicing burden soared to around \$140bn.

In many countries roughly half of the export revenue was needed to meet debt servicing commitments despite numerous debt rescheduling operations.

Key areas of cooperation between the Bonn government and Third World countries during the period under review were food security and rural development, environmental protection, the improvement of the energy supply, and education and vocational training.

Rural development projects and programmes accounted for just under 40 per cent of government commitments in the field of bilateral financial and technical cooperation in 1986.

The corresponding figure in the case of African countries south of the Sahara was 58 per cent.

It would be a serious misappraisal, says the report, to classify the poor, primarily smallholders, tenant farmers, the landless, street traders, small craftsmen, workers and casual labourers, as a fringe group.

In many developing countries they represent over fifty per cent, in some regions and urban districts even ninety per cent, of the population.

Most of these poor people, and in many cases the more productive, are women.

Their survival in the face of hostile conditions proves that they have a remarkable degree of creativity possessed qualities needed to "help themselves."

In many instances, however, the situation deteriorates substantially when people leave their traditional environment.

The consequences of urbanisation reveal the almost automatic process of pauperisation which then follows.

Developments in Africa, Asia and Latin America show that this trend can be reversed if the poor are organised with the objective of improving their ability to shape their own lives independently within existing structures.

The Bonn government feels that the current task of the world economy is to create the preconditions for a sustained process of inflation-free growth.

Industrialised countries, it stresses, must make special efforts to stimulate expansionary forces via economic policy coordination, which includes reducing protectionism and subsidies.

In certain cases they should relieve the debt servicing burden and provide more of the capital which is urgently required.

Developing countries for their part should improve the general economic setting via adjustment measures in order to step up investments and exports, absorb more foreign private capital, and improve the prerequisites for the repayment of rogue capital.

This, the report emphasises, would also improve the economic and social effectiveness of development aid.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 17 March 1988)



Minister hints at further debt waivers

Bonn Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein (CSU) has hinted at the possibility of a further debt remission for poor developing countries.

Following the Cabinet discussion of the Federal government's seventh development policy report he described the growing indebtedness of the Third World as the most urgent problem facing development policy.

During a press conference the Minister announced that the Bonn Cabinet would be taking a closer look at further debt waivers during its initial consultations on the 1989 Federal budget in May.

Debts amounting to DM 1.5bn have already been remitted, although Klein added a note of self-criticism to a corresponding announcement:

"This sounds better than it actually is."

Other countries, he pointed out, had done more during recent years in the way of converting loans into grants for poor countries.

There was no point, said the Minister, in increasing the mountain of debt by providing more loans for indebted countries.

He emphasised that his objective was to convert existing loans into grants in the case of the extremely poor countries (LDCs).

Lending terms for developing countries should be improved, said Klein and described a figure of DM 2.5bn as his idea.

A further objective of his development policy, Klein continued, was to reduce farm subsidies within the European Community to reduce farm subsidies.

He expressed his conviction that there was already a tendency to back down from exporting subsidised farm products to the Third World.

The desired reduction of subsidies has triggered substantial opposition in the Federal Republic of Germany, especially within the Bavarian-based CSU.

The Seventh Report on the Development Policy of the Federal Government, a document 368 pages long, was given Cabinet approval on 16 March.

Klein emphasised that most of the view period relates to years in which his ministerial predecessor, Jürgen Warneke (CSU) and Rainhard Fergek (SPD), were in office.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 17 March 1988)

■ EAST-WEST TIES

Moscow shows increasing interest in Bonn as key to Europe and the West



Helmut Kohl is to visit Moscow this autumn, Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Bonn next spring; deadlines testifying to growing Soviet interest in the Federal Republic of Germany as a key to Europe and to the Western alliance.

But keen though Soviet interest may be, there is still no sign of a master plan for the much-vaunted house East and West are said to share in Europe.

All that is so far apparent are structural features from which inferences may be drawn as to an architectural objective. Three can be defined in greater detail:

- The Kremlin is working on the status quo of a divided Europe.
- Moscow is strongly opposed to the modernisation of nuclear weapons stationed in the Federal Republic in the wake of the INF Treaty.
- It sees the Federal Republic as a suitable donor in connection with its proposed domestic reforms.

Disarmament policy has proved the nucleus of successful diplomacy that has deeply impressed the West.

The Soviet interest in disarmament is adequately explained in terms of the desire to redirect to the underdeveloped civil manufacturing sector part of Moscow's incomparably high military spending, which accounts for 16 per cent of the Soviet GNP.

This target may best be achieved in the framework of a "peaceful environment."

Mr Gorbachov is keen to find a way back to the credit lines that applied in the days of Mr Brezhnev.

He feels it to be self-evident, as does the outside world, that the reforms he has heralded would remain empty phrases without Western assistance in

the third feature is easiest to describe. It forms part of all the rose-tinted comments about a "new chapter" in German-Soviet relations.

Mr Gorbachov is keen to find a way back to the credit lines that applied in the days of Mr Brezhnev.

He feels it to be self-evident, as does the outside world, that the reforms he has heralded would remain empty phrases without Western assistance in

the framework of a "peaceful environment."

Some Christian Democrats, forming a

kind of Grand Coalition with the Social Democrats, also object to missile modernisation on national grounds.

They see a replacement for the short-range Lance missile, due to be phased out in 1995, as a kind of self-deterring limit to the nuclear risk to the two German states.

The Brussels Nato summit did not even bring about verbal clarification on this point.

The North Atlantic pact thus seems incapable of modernisation, being split into a go-ahead Anglo-Saxon and a go-slow Franco-German camp.

Consequences of the Soviet dampening on innovation in Bonn are also apparent in policy on Germany.

Here too a number of Christian Democrats, such as CDU general secretary Heiner Geissler and his "discussion draft" on European and German policy, see eye to eye with the Opposition in avoiding any active or operative policy aimed at eliminating the division of Germany.

Mr Geissler's stated views on this point fall even further back than previously held positions.

His line of argument is, basically, that the German Question may be open but cannot be solved at present and its aim can only be accomplished with the "consent" of Germany's eastern and western neighbours.

Mention is no longer made of reunification. The European option is given priority over the German option. A special, or separate, German policy is ruled out.

Moscow's European policy concept is not yet clear in outline but it is definitely on the move. To fail to project one's desire for innovation on to it would be to leave the initiative entirely to the other side.

*Heribert Krempe
(Die Welt, Bonn, 20 March 1988)*

ment," but that need not be the overriding Soviet consideration.

If experience over the past 40 years is any guide, Mr Gorbachev will be keen to combine an improvement in the Soviet system's innovation capability and the maintenance in full of the Soviet Union's world power status in all sectors and all areas, especially in Europe.

That is the basis of the overall compromise that at present holds together the Soviet politburo with its divergent tendencies in view of dangerous trends.

In other words, the price Mr Gorbachev must pay for domestic reforms is to be in "foreign currency" to pacify his home Opposition.

Above all, he must succeed in his bids to limit the military innovation potential of the Western alliance, curbing it by negotiations, advances and pressure where Europe in general, and the Federal Republic in particular, is concerned.

The INF Treaty is a psycho-diplomatic starting point. During his visit to Bonn in January Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze expressly warned the Federal government not to agree to the modernisation of nuclear weapons.

The Bonn government, especially Foreign Minister Genscher, was impressed. So, of course, was the Opposition, which favours a "third zero solution."

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■ TELECOM

Trade delighted, computer kids thrilled with Hanover fair

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The mood could hardly be better and the signs are that the CeBIT computer fair will have exceeded all expectations, including the great expectations with which the trade went to Hanover in the first place.

At half-way mark the trade fair organisers, the trade associations and individual exhibitors were all highly satisfied with the brisk business they had been doing in the 13 trade fair halls.

In four days 250,000 visitors, over 20 per cent more than last time, had passed through the turnstiles.

This figure may not be the sole yardstick of success, but it is undeniably an important one.

Occasional criticism of the high proportion of computer kids among the paying public proves only that the critic is keenly interested, is usually in no position to judge which operating system will best suit him.

A businessman who works a 12-hour day or longer simply hasn't the time to gain a clear idea of what the market has to offer.

A major topic discussed at Hanover this year was the opportunities presented by the imminent introduction of integrated digital services (ISDN, or integrated services digital network) by the Bundespost.

Later this year the Bundespost is to start installing the ISDN network all over Germany.

Manufacturers have put in hard and impressive work of their own to interest young people and train promising youngsters, but their efforts alone are unlikely to suffice.

That is why there have been demands for concerted action on training computer staff to forestall any further discrepancy between supply and demand.

What computer manufacturers need are specialists. Without them the trade's growth potential cannot be used to the full.

The optimistic atmosphere at CeBIT is largely due to the encouraging economic outlook for the information and communication industries.

Last year was unexpectedly difficult and brought many great expectations down to earth with a vengeance, but the prevailing atmosphere is now one of renewed confidence.

Sales figures in recent months seem to show that the trade was merely "resting" last year and has returned in the fray. It is doing justice again to its reputation as a growth industry.

This resurgence in self-confidence is reflected in the statistics. The world market for information and communication technology is currently worth roughly DM150bn a year.

Over the next decade it is expected to treble in value and account for 40 per cent of the world market in electrical goods.

Software, it is generally agreed, will account for an above-average share in this growth. Software sales are already increasing at three times the overall growth rate for electrical and electronic goods.

Siemens board chairman Karlheinz Karske feels this is a new quality of economic growth using fewer raw materials.

Other factors in Germany's favour as

and involving less environmental pollution.

Integration of software and hardware is of utmost importance. Rationalisation and standardisation are slogans that have long been acknowledged in the software trade.

The Unix operating system, in use all over the world, might well be a step in the direction of greater compatibility and wider use of individual programs, this being the point at which users' criticism sets in.

Custom-built programs can, as a rule, only be used with the model for which they were designed.

Compatibility, another much-vaunted slogan, has remained wishful thinking.

A further problem is that the small businessman, in whom the trade is so keenly interested, is usually in no position to judge which operating system will best suit him.

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Other factors in Germany's favour as

an information and communication industry location are the high qualification of the labour market, with its effect on product quality, high productivity by international standards and a fairly good infrastructure.

Dominik Schmidt
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 March 1988)



This 4-in-screen video phone, premiered in Europe at CeBIT, plugs into a standard telephone socket. (Photo: AP)

Crowd-pulling CeBIT featured nothing that was really new

Computers, in all shapes and sizes,

are the stars of the show at the CeBIT Fair in Hanover. Yet a young man attracts the attention of a crowd of people in a matter of seconds.

Wearing a black dress-coat, he sets up a small table on a computer manufacturer's stand and flips a pack of playing cards from hand to hand.

In next to no time he is surrounded by people keen to see what he is up to. Is it a new advertising gimmick? Is he working for a particularly astute exhibitor?

No, he isn't. He is simply performing a few card tricks. Nothing new, all old faithfuls — and fascinatingly human.

After a quarter of an hour the sorcerer's apprentice folds up his table and disappears in the vast expanses of Hall 1, where CeBIT, the computer fair, was decoupled from the main Hanover Fair in 1986.

Hall 1 is still where CeBIT can best be seen in full splendour. Nearly all leading manufacturers, such as IBM, Siemens, Nixdorf and Commodore, have their stands here.

They all present a sober, level-headed picture, each with stand space commensurate with its size and importance, stands stacked with computers in all shapes and sizes, configurations and prices.

Glossy brochures, test programs in colour and arrays of small cabins are pitted against a drawback that has long bedevilled computer manufacturers.

Their problem is that computers are hard to sell by means of optical presentation. The only way you can really make a sale is by means of thorough, detailed consultation.

Yet few of the 300,000 visitors stop for more than a moment. They all roam the CeBIT stands in a quest for the latest trends. Critics say the emphasis is on quantity, not quality.

The uninformed are bound to wonder what tabular calculation, a relational database or terminal emulation are. What is a plasma screen, a transputer or a VAX station? And, above all, what use are they all?

A number of exhibitors and institutions try to shed light on the mysterious microchip at the computer camp. It is a roaring success with the computer kids!

What, then, does Europe's largest computer fair have to offer? The number of visitors may be impressive, but the show cannot be said to have been overwhelmingly spectacular.

Epson exhibited a prototype 48-pin printer. NEC made do with updated versions of its successful range. Acer,

formerly Multitech, presented the first IBM PS/2 clone.

But visitors weren't shown the cloned kernel of the new microchannel systems architecture.

Commodore, who do bumper business in home computers and their Amiga range, can hardly keep the kids at bay.

Yet apart from an updated version of the old standby, the C 64, Commodore has nothing new to show for itself. And the same could be said of many others.

Schneider has two new micros of its own on show, while barely a stone's throw away Amstrad, the British company with which Schneider used to collaborate, presents its new models.

Schneider and Amstrad may now have parted company, but that alone — and, indeed, this year's CeBIT as a whole — is not going to floor the computer trade, accustomed to success as it is.

One exhibitor had a new LCD monitor, another an even faster lightweight portable — CeBIT this year featured progress in detail, bit by bit.

The public, mainly male and fashionably dressed for spring, seemed unperturbed. They had the choice of 2,674 exhibitors with stands in 13 halls.

Yet visitors who might have hoped to get a clearer grasp of the computer phenomenon and feel less apprehensive about the new technology were disappointed. Computerspeak remains an insider's jargon.

You need to have at least a clear idea of the basics. Otherwise you may well find yourself homewards-bound with a plastic bag full of glossy brochures but none the wiser.

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Continued on page 7

■ TAXATION

Stoltenberg's fiscal fling scales its first hurdle

The first round of the political bout over the 1990 tax reform package is over. The Cabinet draft has been submitted.

Many wounds were inflicted in fierce verbal clashes preceding the decision. They involved the lobbies and Premiers Strauss and Späth, Chancellors Kohl, the Churches and many others.

But Finance Minister Stoltenberg succeeded in preventing fundamental amendments of the package.

It continues to consist mainly of a simpler income tax scale with higher basic and children's allowances and lower initial and peak rates, the combination ensuring a steady increase in the aggregate.

The Social Democrats criticise the proposed new scale, saying higher income-earners benefit more than those who earn low incomes.

That, they argue, is unfair. But is the progression of the existing rate fair?

Even the new scale will leave the income tax rate increasing disproportionately as incomes rise.

What matters is less the peak rate than the opportunities higher income-earners have of avoiding it. These loopholes are to be closed, and that is surely the right approach, even though it may not always be a straight line.

It runs in wavy lines round the thorny cliffs of different interests, as shown by the provision for a withholding tax said to be aimed at forcing taxpayers to pay tax on unearned income they are supposed to declare in any case.

Yet in view of the possible influence of a withholding tax on the capital market, higher interest rates and a transfer of cash to foreign and non-resident accounts, withholding tax is to be charged at a low rate, 10 per cent, an interest paid on fixed-interest bonds etc.

The withholding tax as proposed is thus a compromise. Churches and charities were justifiably exempted as one of the first changes, but the banks rightly failed in their bid to have the tax shelved entirely.

Interest payments and unearned income are growing so fast that the Finance Minister is duty bound to ensure that tax is paid on them.

The withholding tax may not be wholly fair, but it is a pragmatic attempt to limit deliberate tax evasion.

Compromises are also proposed on

ment that the reform package will on average ease by DM1,000 the annual direct tax burden per man, woman and child.

A number of income-earners who stand to forfeit several existing privileges may well find themselves worse off than beforehand.

All employed people stand to pay more from the outset by being taxed proportionately — month by month — on a presumed full salary paid as a Christmas bonus, usually in November.

Provisions of this kind markedly reduce any pleasure we may feel at the prospect of the tax reform package as now outlined, but they fail to make it superficial.

A sliding scale of income tax has to be revised periodically to ensure that us earnings increase higher absolute rates of tax are not automatically imposed.

Besides, the state ought not to raise more in taxes than the bare minimum it needs to perform its obligations. It must not, however, forego so much revenue that it has to borrow more and more money to make ends meet.

An increase in the public sector borrowing requirement sows the seeds of higher taxes.

Finance Minister Stoltenberg has yet to prove that his proposals strike a balance between tax relief and new fiscal burdens. He has long had to abandon his initial objective of reducing both taxes and the public sector borrowing requirement.

Premier Späth of Baden-Württemberg failed in his bid to ensure a less uncompromising arrangement with regard to discounts on new cars for carmakers' staff.

He now hopes to achieve this and other objectives via the Bundesrat, or Upper House, of the Bonn Bundestag.

The tax reform package seems sure to be at the receiving end of horse-trading in the Bundesrat, but it is unlikely to be thrown out entirely.

A striking point is that one in the Bonn coalition refers any longer to the argument.

Wolfgang Koch

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 March 1988)

Tax reform package in brief

Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg's 500-page 1990 tax reform package has been approved by the Bonn Cabinet.

It includes DM20.8bn in tax relief for individual and corporate taxpayers. That exceeds the DM20bn target originally envisaged.

A three-year transitional arrangement will apply on taxation of bonuses paid for working night shifts.

Save as you earn plans will continue to include conventional savings plans and life insurance policies, but these will no longer qualify for low-income bonuses.

Small and medium-sized firms have qualified for up to DM3,000 in income or corporation tax relief on the employer's contribution toward saving as you earn schemes.

The withholding tax may not be wholly fair, but it is a pragmatic attempt to limit deliberate tax evasion.

This relief is now to be scrapped, netting a further DM250m in tax revenue.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 19 March 1988)

CeBIT Hanover

Continued from page 6

cessors for individual adaptation to your machine control" to an "open system for data banks."

One exhibit deals with the "link-up between different data stations," another with "PC communications" and a third and fourth with computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-integrated manufacturing (CIM).

At the next stand a pretty girl is all smiles as she demonstrates the latest generation of smart telephones.

But, sad to say, the Bundespost has not yet given them the go-ahead. Their use is still prohibited in Germany.

Visitors who watched one of the many demonstrations will not have been much the wiser. The man at the terminal went through his word processing routine heedless of an audience that came and went.

What the public sees is a king-sized screen, and as they shuffle past a loudspeaker voice temporarily drowns the background noise as it explains:

■ STOCK MARKET

Corporate raiders reputed to have set sights on German take-over market

Many believed that the stock market crash of 19 October last year on Wall Street, Black Monday, would put an end to take-overs.

Take-overs by corporate raiders, as people such as T. Boone Pickens, Ascher Edelman and Sir James Goldsmith are known in stock exchange jargon, lost a lot of money when the market tumbled so dramatically.

The cash reserves of their firms, with which they are able to negotiate credits to finance take-overs, suffered badly in the crash.

The fact is, however, that after a breather, wheeling and dealing in international take-overs is as lively as ever. Only the cash has changed.

It is not so often now a person who is operating in the take-over bid but firms that want to incorporate other companies into their organisation.

Hoffmann-La Roche tried to take over the American Sterling pharmaceuticals company, which eventually fell into the arms of Eastman Kodak.

British Petroleum has taken over British and in Belgium Carlo de Benedetti, with a majority holding in Olivetti, has an Italian bid to fight off Belgian resistance to his bid for Société Générale.

Canada's Seargent organisation beat off the British Grand Metropolitan Group in its bid to take over the eugene Martell.

The reason for these take-overs is obvious. Business executives have realised that they can buy into other companies relatively cheaply, thus interesting cand-

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

dates for take-over can be bought up at acceptable prices.

Take-over battles, which have pushed up share prices in other stock markets, have not taken place in the Federal Republic.

The sale of the Reemtsma majority holding in Henninger to EKA, the dis-

posal of Hannen to Tiborg, the participation of the French glass manufacturer Saint-Gobain in Oberland Glas have added a somewhat misleading dash of colour.

The change of ownership in Henninger-Brau, Frankfurt, led to a sharp increase in the stock market quotation of Henninger shares and brewery stocks generally.

Breweries are a special case. For years this sector has been in decline. There are too many breweries. No other country has so many breweries as the Federal Republic.

In addition the European Community decision on West German beer purity regulations has started off speculation about take-overs from abroad.

It is easier for foreign companies to get a foot in the Federal Republic beer market by acquiring a German company than by setting up their own production facilities and marketing operations.

Breweries have maintained their val-

ue better than most other sectors despite poor profits performance since the crash.

The take-over situation in the Federal Republic does not give a complete picture of the stock market.

The Bank in Liechtenstein has recently reported that there were 802 no-

ifications to the Monopolies Commission of company purchases last year, purchases that had to be notified to the Commission. This compares with 709 notifications in record year 1986.

Consultancy firm Wipper & Partner in Hamburg estimates that the actual figure was over 2,000 last year as compared with 1,700 in 1986.

These mergers take place for the most part outside stock market operations.

The trend to take-overs could be-

come more marked over the next few years. Tax reform planned for 1990 will mean that profits earned from the dis-

posal of a company will be taxed at a graded, but higher rate, instead of the minimum rate applicable at the present. This could result in an increase in take-overs up to 1990.

There is little evidence of increased take-over bids by the Japanese.

The cheap dollar is attracting Japanese investors to the USA and in fact is forcing Japanese exporters involved in Amer-

ican markets to produce in the USA so as to remain competitive.

The different structure of the German

stock market must be taken into consider-

ation when speculating about take-

overs. According to a recent estimate from the Commerzbank approximately half the shares quoted on German stock markets are held by major shareholders.

This could lead to large sharehold-

ings changing hands but is unlikely to

lead to total take-over bids of all share-

holders.

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■ THE ARTS

Austrian writer Ilse Aichinger wins literary award

Austrian writer Ilse Aichinger has been awarded the 1988 Wilhelm Prize for Literature. The jury, making the award for the first time, was made up of schoolboys and girls. They said that the reason for their decision was the fascination for the language the author uses in her work, a language that had its effect on young people, even if the meaning was mysterious. In 'Rede an die Jugend' she called on her readers not to give up the hope of joy in an era that was recurringly plagued with anxiety, but not to allow this joy to corrupt. Ilse Aichinger was born in Vienna in 1921. After the 'Anschluss' her family was persecuted by the Nazis. Her most important novel is 'Die grösste Hoffnung' that describes the feelings of a young girl during the Nazi regime. It appeared in 1948. Last year her latest book appeared, entitled 'Kleist, Moos, Fasane.' She now lives in Frankfurt where she was interviewed by Verena Auffermann.

Anyone who wants to understand Ilse Aichinger must come to terms with the logic of contradiction. She makes comments such as: 'To remain in one spot is to bid it farewell.'

She has been living in Frankfurt for the past four years where, she says, there are too many banks and not enough coffee houses. Otherwise she does not have much to say about Frankfurt. She is probably too polite to say anything about the city.

The word "silence" envelops her. Because silence in an era of noise is an unreasonable demand she must explain to the unsuspecting what silence is in fact.

She said that as a schoolgirl she admired a quiet child. Now she knows why. "Silence covers the currency of words. Because words are needed faster all the time silence gets more and more vital," she said.

Anyone who can read her book, which appeared in the autumn of 1987, 'Kleist, Moos, Fasane,' and her work between 1950 and 1985, has enough to read in one sentence for a day. One will commit her sentences from the book to memory.

Her statements take up little of her time, because she is timeless. That is why they are made for permanence. Who is aware, like she is herself, that one can only experience what one already knows?

What could one possibly ask such a writer? Is not every interference an indiscretion?

She laughs as only a person can laugh who has suffered the difficult and easy times of a young girl. Then one is brave. One is inquisitive in my event, which is why she writes so little and feels herself to be a clown who gambles with truth.

She smokes and from behind a cloud of cigarette smoke she spoke of the magic hat behind which she protects herself and says that nut-writing is just as much work as writing.

Ilse Aichinger describes writing as "the harvest." She harvests with great care and considerable economy.

Since 1948 she has published a novel, short stories, a play for radio, a vo-

lume of poetry and some essays. Not a word is wasted.

In the short pieces entitled 'Kleist, Moos, Fasane' there is under the date 1972 just this single statement: "Acquire indifference."

Ilse Aichinger has not allowed herself to dream that the "quiet book" would get so much attention. Her books have all been published by Fischer Verlag and have been designed by Otl Aicher.

She was 21 when her grandmother was carried off.

She said: "We lived just a few houses away from the Gestapo. I can't bear watching marching. I can't bear hearing singing, and marching in step leaves me cold."

Before we speak about anxiety let us talk about guilt. She thinks that it is too much for the Germans to assume responsibility for all war crimes themselves.

She asked: "How many Jews did America, Britain, France, Switzerland or Russia take in? Who knew a millionaire who was prepared to stand guarantee for the fare to emigrate to America?"

Ilse Aichinger seldom quotes Ilse Aichinger. She knows the sentences by heart, such as the implication that anxiety is the stuff of courage.

Put in another way typical of her manner of expression: "If one does not have anxiety one is not courageous," or, an important remark from her: "Have enough anxiety."

She said that when once everyone had had enough anxiety everything would be spared. Hitler had no anxiety. He was a so-called brave man.

She published her one and only novel in 1948, 'Die grösste Hoffnung.' It is criss-crossed with the horrors of war.

Poet and calmly, just as others in a good mood talk about good weather, she said: "I think one has to experience a shot in the stomach."

She regards the general threat under which we live as more sinister than it used to be as the danger becomes clearer.

She is sorry for young people, the discrepancy between champagne and nuclear reactors. A roof over one's head and no ground beneath one's feet. In her view that is what youth needed.

We spoke of what would have been a good expression, about civil courage. Young people must find it anew so that it can become theirs.

She was baptised a Catholic but is half-Jewish and was 17 when the Germans occupied Austria in 1938, and when her mother, a doctor, was refused permission to emigrate to Berlin.

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Christiane, Countess Rantzau, is head of the Hamburg branch of Christie's, the British auction house established in 1766.

From her Hamburg office she looks after Christie's interests in North Germany. Christie's have branches in Düsseldorf and Munich.

Only laymen believe that North Germany is undeveloped in the arts like Westphalia.

The 29-year-old Countess said that Christie's had organised successful auctions of modern art. Last year £24m was paid for van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' and £12m for 'Le Pont de Trinquetaille.'

These are impressive sums. She proudly points to Christie's prospectus.

In fluent English into the telephone she tries to sell her Lundun head office old German toys and dolls. There is not always a lot of art to be handled. But auctions have to be organised. The firm depends on them with its ton-per-cent commission on sales.

Christie's people have to be out and about in Germany on the look out for lucrative items and put them on the road for a change of owner. The commission is the attraction.

"If our clients are swimming about helplessly they can turn to us with complete confidence. We give advice about building up or reducing a collection."

Christiane, Countess Rantzau
(Photo: Hartmut Bernd)



Ilse Aichinger
(Photo: Brigitte Friedl)

New head of Christie's in Hamburg



Christiane, Countess Rantzau
(Photo: Hartmut Bernd)

■ PHOTOGRAPHY

German Faces of 40 years ago back in Berlin

An exhibition of Henry Ries's photographs has opened in Berlin, the city where he was born in 1917.

His book 'German Faces,' based on press photographs he took in post-war Germany, has been reprinted to coincide with the exhibition.

Ries, a German-American, was the photographer of the Berlin Blockade. He was in Berlin in 1948 when the hot phase of the Cold War opened.

The New York Times commissioned him to photograph the squadrons of the Berlin airlift.

He photographed the people in the blockaded city and the city itself. He took pictures that are now listed in any good photographic archive. The negatives are owned by Berlin's Senate. He presented them to the city 20 years ago.

Berlin officials did not know how it happened when they learned that the city had been offered this historic collection. The way it happened was comparatively unusual.

Henry Ries was in New York with a staff member from the Smithsonian Institution.

The Exhibition: Henry Ries — Photos from Berlin, Germany and Europe 1946-51, at the Berlinische Galerie until the end of August.

The Book: Henry Ries: Deutsche (German Faces), published by Argon Verlag, Berlin, 160 pages, 80 black and white photographs, DM36.

stitute, Washington, who was interested in the photographs.

His companion from Washington told him that they were historic documents. Henry Ries recalls that he had not seen them in this light.

Under the date 1977 Ilse Aichinger made this entry: "One should not say all at once what one has to say."

Verena Auffermann
(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 19 March 1988)

Henry Ries, still known as Heinzel, could tell endless stories about how high the hurdles were that a Jewish emigre had to surmount to get to America.

He said: "It was relatively easy getting out of Germany, but it was very tough getting into America."

It was also very difficult for an emigre like Ries to join the Army. His parents were well-to-do Jews.

Young Ries felt himself to be German in every sense of the word. He was blue-eyed and blond and he could have continued to feel in this way until suddenly

Continued from page 1
tanks and field guns. Bonn views this as unacceptable.

In view of the complexity of the subject-matter and the positions outlined it remains to be seen whether the negotiations on the disarmament of conventional forces between the Atlantic and the Ursis make more progress at a more rapid pace than the MBFR talks.

All the MBFR talks have to do is to reach agreement on the numbers of troops — a task which overtaxed the negotiating parties for almost 15 years.

Initial Soviet reactions suggest that scepticism is advisable.

According to Tass, the Soviet news agency, Bonn's proposal sets out to destroy the structure of the Soviet armed forces without in any way changing the structure and arms level of the Nato alliance.

Karl Feldmeyer
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 23 March 1988)

his Jewish origins began to separate him from Germans.

He recalls that the day after Hitler came to power he was sitting in school on a bench for three when suddenly he was quite alone. The two non-Jews had gone off.

But, he says, young lad in Berlin at the time were still pragmatic. "I was a very good pupil. A few days later they again sat by me, because they wanted to look into my exercise books," he said. Henry was then called Heinzel and was a smart young lad.

With some pleasure he recalls that after the change in the political situation he had no problems going out with "Aryan" girls. His kind were much in demand.

Henry Ries also still recalls with delight a new biology teacher, a rather crotchety, sinister character with the Nazi party badge in his lapel, who strove to initiate adolescents into the basics of racial theory.

Henry was in the front row and was superbly suitable to demonstrate the characteristics of the Aryan principle.

When the demonstration of Aryan characteristics was completed Heinzel said to the teacher:

"May I say something?" — "Yes, of course, Ries." — "I am Jewish." (The class bawled with delight.)

His father, like so many German Jews, believed that the situation would not get serious. Heinzel Ries thought differently.

Gradually he began to comprehend the threatening danger of Nazi Germany. In 1938 he emigrated to America. It was not easy.

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Berlin airlift, July 1948

"When I saw this old man I asked myself: Who is he, who am I?" Ries said.

The old man could have been a Nazi, a fellow-traveller or an informer. Or had he helped Jews, as Henry's "Aryan" nanny had helped Henry and his sister Steffie?

Who knows, Henry asked himself, perhaps the old man had risked his neck in the resistance?

Henry then began to realise that in 1938, as a 20-year-old, he had not fled out of conscious opposition to the Nazis, but because to remain would have been dangerous. He said: "I would rather have stayed in Berlin."

He added: "I was lucky that I was Jewish." This thought has since been on his mind a lot.

Henry Ries tried to find the Germans and himself. He had become a photographer for an American armed forces magazine. Later he changed to the New York Times.

He toured Berlin for days on end with camera and notebook in hand. He went to West Germany which was for Ries, a Berliner, a foreign country, to Essen, Mittenwald, Bonn.

He had the idea for a book, 'German Faces.' It was to become a bestseller in America at the beginning of the 1950s, the first popular source of information on the defeated enemy. For readers in this country it is a document that is reshape.

Henry Ries produced, alongside the pictures, a text on the discussions he had had with people. They did not talk about liberation or the new starting point for the country.

The text shows a defeated people whose bitterness and anger is not directed against the criminal regime that had brought the country to defeat and destruction.

Since the middle of the 1950s Henry Ries has lived in New York. He was beginning to forget the Germany that he had had to leave 50 years ago and saw in a different guise 40 years ago. He said: "I no longer want to stand between two worlds. Now I am really an American."

There are pictures that show that not only the historic moment is important; the photographer must also be a match for them.

The photographer explains with his camera through an analytical understanding of the background and a sharp appreciation of the situation.

There are only a few who can do this. Henry Ries is one of them.

Werner A. Berger

(Deutsche Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung,
Hamburg, 13 March 1988)

Post-war border between East and West Berlin
(Photo: Caidoglio)

■ ENVIRONMENT

European Year of the Environment was a flop, says European Parliament

The Environment Ministers of the 12 European Community countries had no excuse for congratulation when they met in Brussels to review 1987, the European Year of the Environment.

The air in the street outside the European Commission building in Brussels is not perceptibly cleaner than it was a year ago.

Ministers and their officials cannot be sure the coffee in their vacuum flasks is any fresher of lead, nitrates, pesticides and radioactive contamination.

Even those who don't share the gloomy view of Green MEP Urdine Bloch von Blotzitz, who told the European Parliament in Strasbourg the overall outcome of European environmental "window-dressing" had been disgraceful, will have to admit that the European Year of the Environment has resulted in very little less pollution and not much more protection.

The European Parliament, which is increasingly emerging as an advocate of environmental protection and consumer interests, has arrived at a damning all-party conclusion.

Crucial environmental problems have still to be solved, it says. Legal provisions in European Community countries have not been improved to any great extent. None of the major environmental legislation planned by member-countries was passed during Environment Year.

Where European Community guidelines exist, member-countries have often been very slow to incorporate them in national legislation, and when, after lengthy delays, they have done so, national legislation has been incomplete.

Social Democratic MEP Beate Weber from Heidelberg, chairwoman of the European Parliament's environmental affairs committee, lists the failures:

- The 12 Environment Ministers failed to agree on pollution control regulations for static emission by coal-fired power stations.
- The European Community's emission ceilings for pollution-controlled cars are arguably too high and certainly way above statutory ceilings in the United States.
- The radioactive contamination ceilings for foodstuffs, finally agreed after a lengthy tug-of-war, are twice as high as the levels laid down by the European Commission after Chernobyl.
- The Montreal protocol on limited

Continued from page 8

as is common in the USA and other countries.

To this can be added the fact that oil millionaires from the Middle East are not likely to be interested in stock issues of German companies on German stock markets.

They show little interest in non-voting preference shares and are discouraged by the 10-per-cent voting limit imposed in the 1970s to keep petromals at bay.

It is doubtful whether in the future there will be exciting rises in minor stock prices on German stock exchanges because of take-over bid speculations.

Leo Fischer
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 18 March 1988)



No fewer than 177 court cases are pending in which member-countries stand accused of breaches of environmental commitments.

No matter where they looked, at the pumping of toxic substances into rivers, lakes and waterways or at the quality of bathing or tap water, MEPs came up against breaches of European Community regulations by member-countries.

The authorities showed inadequate interest in introducing and enforcing quality standards in keeping with strict scientific findings.

In Munich, for instance, people were long allowed to bathe in the River Isar even though its water quality fell short of European Community standards.

What has since happened? Have the municipal authorities done anything to improve the water quality? Not they. They have simply removed the "Bathing Permitted" signs.

Lead in tap water is highly toxic and a serious health hazard. It is acknowledged to destroy the red blood corpuscles and lead to anaemia and, possibly, cancer.

Yet nearly all member-countries were late in introducing and enforcing the European Community's lead content in tap water, to "Kafkaesque conditions" in respect of the implementation of the European Community guideline in member-countries and the implementation of verdicts reached by the European Court of Justice.

The Luxembourg court still has no sanctions. It must be enabled to act against member-countries and check whether its verdicts are implemented throughout the Community.

Yet even its critics in the European Parliament concede that the European Year of the Environment has heightened environmental awareness in Western Europe.

In some areas of the Community, such as Britain, where water is still pumped to consumers through lead pipes tap water continues to contain unacceptable high levels of lead pollution.

The European Community, he said, has issued 198 guidelines on environmental and consumer protection, but 55 guidelines have yet to be incorporated in national legislation in one or more member-countries.

Rhine pollution weighs heavily on Rotterdam

Not until the beaver and the salmon return to the Rhine, Britain's Stanley Johnson, European Community commissioner for environmental affairs, told the International Rhine Conference held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, will the smile return to the Loreley's face.

The conference, held by the Dutch National Environmental Protection Committee, was attended by 120 delegates.

They all agreed that risk management can only hope to succeed within a framework of close international cooperation between government agencies and industrial companies in the four countries through which the river passes.

This was said to require "harmonisation of environmental protection provisions" in France, Germany, Holland and Switzerland and "intensive communication" between their respective authorities.

Councillor M.J. Jansen of Rotterdam made it clear how much toxic material his city had to handle.

Industry, which was represented for the first time at an international Rhine conference of this kind, stressed that it was willing in principle to play an active part in improving environmental protection, especially of the Rhine.

But care must be taken to ensure, as German industrial spokesmen were particularly anxious to note, that the introduction and implementation of environ-

mental protection measures in, say, the chemical industry were "internationally harmonised."

If this was not ensured, competitive distortion would result, with a paralysing effect on industrial readiness to invest in expensive but environmentally sound manufacturing techniques.

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, head of the European Environment Policy Institute, was critical of the course the Strasbourg conference took.

He felt the "topological aspect" had been paid too little attention in what had been an "extremely rich and varied conference".

After the Sandoz catastrophe, in which chemicals polluted Rhine water downstream from Basle, the river had been found to undergo a process of biological reactivation starting from water that had not been affected.

More attention, he said, must be paid to "river regulation."

He also saw a need to draw up ecological standards that were practicable for industry and actionable for the public prosecutor's office.

Maybe, he felt, we were pursuing the wrong policies on the Rhine because the wrong people had wrong information at their disposal.

Helmut Herzel
(Die Welt, Bonn, 8 March 1988)

Germany in particular, Frau Weber says, has been particularly slow to implement European Community regulations.

It has either dragged its feet before doing so or only partially, and tardily, made provision to enforce them.

Given this disappointing environmental balance sheet the European Parliament has drawn up a list of demands.

The European Commission, it says, must set up an inspectorate of its own to monitor pollution in member-countries, using mobile measuring stations and taking samples to specify offences and help to bring offenders to book.

A complaint form has existed for some time to be used by members of the public who want to lodge environmental complaints with the European Commission. Its existence must be made more widely known.

Watchdog committee

An environmental watchdog committee needs to be set up to review the implementation of Community law in member-countries and to monitor the European Commission's performance in respect of statutory notification of member-countries and the implementation of verdicts reached by the European Court of Justice.

The Luxembourg court still has no sanctions. It must be enabled to act against member-countries and check whether its verdicts are implemented throughout the Community.

Yet even its critics in the European Parliament concede that the European Year of the Environment has heightened environmental awareness in Western Europe.

It has redirected regional fund and European Investment Bank funds into environmental protection and brought about a number of improvements in nature conservation. **Thomas Guck**
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 March 1988)

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such essential respects as protection of ground and tap water.

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■ OUR WORLD

Freiburg scientist surveys world sleeping habits

Freiburg University survey of global sleeping habits

They get up at three in the morning to make their social calls.

The Yahans of Tierra del Fuego are another exception. Whenever they feel tired they simply doze off and wake up when they are refreshed.

The Yahans can also go without sleep for long periods without getting tired, though at some later stage they have to make up for the loss of sleep with long rests.

Western tourists in Asia have long been amazed by the ability of Asians on long journeys to sleep on rattling buses and trains. Most Westerners cannot sleep under such conditions.

In most countries people go to bed at night and get up the following morning to go to work. They usually finish work in the evening. The time between finishing work and going to bed is leisure time. But such sleeping habits are by no means universal.

The Mayans in Yucatan for instance, have a completely different timetable,

New head

Continued from page 10

the "general course of fine and decorative arts from the renaissance to the present day" she was prepared to become the representative for Christie's for art in North Germany.

Expressing her view on art she said: "Most people are interested in modern art." Subject, quality?

"No, the prices for these pictures increase best of all." Then ten per cent for Christie's.

Is there any demand for German expressionists? Dix and Kirchner show gains that go into the hundreds of millions.

If you do not have a lot of money there is little hope of acquiring much. Prices have become so astronomical that only dilettante collectors with plenty of money have any hope of acquiring items.

But they do not need to give up. They can get out of the situation where prices have been pushed up high and shuffle the cards anew.

Auction houses do not set trends they just have to react.

Connoisseurs, are snapping up just about every passable painting from Schleswig-Holstein dating from the middle of the last century.

Professor Kurt Hahlweg says about 35 per cent of married people are not content with their partners. Every fourth marriage in Germany ends in divorce.

This happened with a fireman who collected Scandinavian paintings at a time when connoisseurs did not have the faintest idea that there was any painting in oil in the north.

Now Scandinavian art is in vogue and the gentleman is doing fabulous business.

He gave up putting out fires and made his hobby his profession.

Psychologist Volker Eckert of the Munich Institute of Communication Therapy says:

"The decisive thing in the course of a good relationship are not so much the

and friends sleeping in a communal bed was not only due to the hardship and the cold.

Effelsberg says communal sleeping gave people a feeling of solidarity. It was easier to control the movements of family members such as the daughters. Examples of this today are the military, monasteries and boarding schools which also have great dormitories that rob the individual of privacy.

Sleeping aids like mats, mattresses, pillows and blankets are found all over the world. Archaeologists have found different types of ancient headrests in Egypt, Europe, Africa and Asia.

In southern New Guinea some people sleep on dead relatives' skulls. They believe the skull has magical powers which can enhance the sleeper's power.

Some countries have special heaters which help one to get to sleep. The Dutch invented a unique one called the "Guling" in Indonesia.

It is a pillow one metre long with a diameter of 30 centimetres. One wraps one's legs and arms around it. In warm regions it soaks up unpleasant sweat. It's still used today by Europeans and Indonesians of mixed stock.

Unusual massage techniques have been used to foster sleep. On Tonga the wealthy made their servants massage them for hours and sometimes even for nights at a time. The servants chopped gently with their fists the insomnia's posterior and thighs.

The technique relaxed and promoted a good night's sleep. Poor insomnia without servants achieved the same effect by getting three or four of their offspring to trample on them.

In India some parents used water to get their children off to sleep. They connected a bamboo pipe up to a stream and massaged their child's head with a jet of water until it dropped off to sleep. The water flowed out of the house along a narrow channel.

Effelsberg says additional extensive studies on the sleeping habits of different cultures and the importance of rest and activity would improve our knowledge of the circumstances which play an important role in the personal attitude of people to sleep. They could serve as a basis for a new evaluation of sleep and help people to sleep better.

Franziska Becker
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 17 March 1988)

DIE WELT

problems which crop up, but rather the way in which the partners deal with them."

Hahlweg and Eckert are working together with the Catholic Church on a unique German project to promote and train engaged couples in communication before marriage.

Four couples come together for six evenings and are taught, said Eckert, "to consciously behave and converse in a way which promotes relationships and to recognise and rectify behaviour which damages them."

Hahlweg says the goal of the marriage preparation course is more than the expression of feelings and desires and the perception of mutual expectations typical of self-encounter groups.

Peter Schmalz
(Die Welt, Bonn, 17 March 1988)

Men's advice bureau opens in Frankfurt

Most German cities have women's centres. Frankfurt now has one for men, probably the first of its kind.

If men cannot cope any more because they have problems with their families, with being single, at work, with their psychological or physical health or with the role of being a man — the centre says this is a common complaint — then they just have to reach for the phone and ring the centre.

If one sees men as being the stronger sex — a shaky view these days — one will be surprised at the length of the list of masculine complaints.

The centre regularly hears complaints about the pressure at work. Some complain that fatherhood has left them permanently discontented.

Then there are the men who are lucky if they can leave work in a good mood even two or three times a week.

A self-help initiative set up the centre with the idea of offering conversation groups to discuss such problems. Günther Querfurth, who organised the centre, said:

"Participants see that other men have the same problems." The men try together to find, and often do find, solutions to their problems.

Men can usually only speak about sexual or behavioural problems with other men.

■ MODERN LIVING

Freiburg psychologist probes occult craze among German schoolchildren

A survey has been carried out on the influence of the occult in schools in the Saar and Trier and Koblenz in Rhineland-Palatinate.

It was carried out by Johannes Mischo, professor of psychology at Freiburg University, and Bernd Lambert from the schools department of the Roman Catholic diocese of Trier.

Esoteric books crowd the bookshelves in bookshops. Pulp-magazines delight in describing satanic masses and other occult activities.

A "spiritual address book" indicates the track to be taken in the world of the spirits for a specific need.

The longing for the supernatural increases all the time and there is much in it that is dangerous.

Professor Mischo sees in this interest in the occult a renaissance of "old spiritualist practices."

His department in Freiburg University receives approximately 3,000 requests for information about the occult per year.

The Education Ministry in Mainz, shocked by this interest in the occult that extends from unspecified "events" to prophecies of death at schools in the Rhineland-Palatinate, takes the view that youth sects are being replaced by what the occult has to offer.

In the survey 520 questionnaires were sent out to Catholic teachers in high schools: 138 were returned and they have now been assessed.

The survey showed that almost 85 of the teachers questioned dealt with occultism in their classes. The initiative for this came primarily from pupils themselves — 67 per cent.

Manifestly then this deals with a problem schoolboys and girls have and it requires psychological and educational consideration.

The themes raised in class were based on the pupils' personal experiences in occult practices.

The most popular practice by far was glass moving across letters to spell out words, then automatic writing, table levitation and seances, all interpreted spiritually.

Professor Mischo said that these techniques brought into action deep levels of the personality and produced messages from the unconscious that were regarded as imminent to a person's wellbeing.

These "psychic automatisms," which have been explored since the spiritualist fad of the 1850s, show a tendency to personification. This is why the more or less intelligent products were described as "spirits."

This impression is strongly held by schoolboys and girls, according to Mischo, when "inexplicable knowledge" is added or when objects move as if they were self-propelled.

Here one must differentiate between a hallucination, a deception or genuine parapsychological experiences from

the unconscious. Schoolboys and girls explain the sources of all this as a message, primarily of a spiritual significance — from the dead, the reincarnated, unseen spirits or demons, which enter the human psyche.

According to Mischo the practice of getting into uncontrolled contact with the unconscious in groups can become addictive.

The results can be a withdrawal from daily life with difficulties at school and problems in learning, increased anxiety and an unconscious wish to fulfill messages from the spiritual world.

Twenty-four per cent of the teachers said their pupils suffered from depression, considered doing harm to themselves or others and disturbances resembling psychological disorders. At least 40 cases of this kind have been recorded.

The schoolboys and girls were also very interested in such things as reading playing cards and horoscopes.

Magical practices such as for example the "prescriptions" from the 6th and 7th chapters in the Book of Moses (a product of the Middle Ages) are just ahead of listening to pop groups with a background of dealing in the occult.

This accounts for the popularity of groups with such names as "Black Sabbath," "Black Widow" or "Tyrannosaurus Rex."

Heavy Metal Music has now taken a new direction, called "Black Metal," which is described as "satanic pop."

There is also considerable interest in Satanic cults and the Black Mass, a favourite topic of the popular press.

The teachers in the survey said that curiosity was the main motive for young people getting mixed up in the occult — 72 per cent.

They also listed a decline in religious education — 32 per cent — and a search for identity among young people — 20 per cent.

The social aspect, doing what one's contemporaries do, only plays a minor role, according to the Catholic teachers.

Although the teachers have made efforts to gain information about the occult from a number of sources, more than three-quarters of them regard themselves as being inadequately informed on the subject.

The diocese of Trier is planning further events in which teachers can get to know more about the confrontation with the supernatural.

Radio Luxembourg has already taken up the theme. In a programme entitled "Unbelievable Stories" followers of various spiritual practices can have their say.

The survey among the teachers showed that they did not criticise the radio station for broadcasting the programme, but the evaluation of the survey did include the comment:

"We have instances where the Radio Luxembourg programme has stimulated interest in the occult, but the survey of the teachers does not reveal a direct link between the programme and various practices."

Professor Mischo has come to some very definite conclusions as a result of the survey.

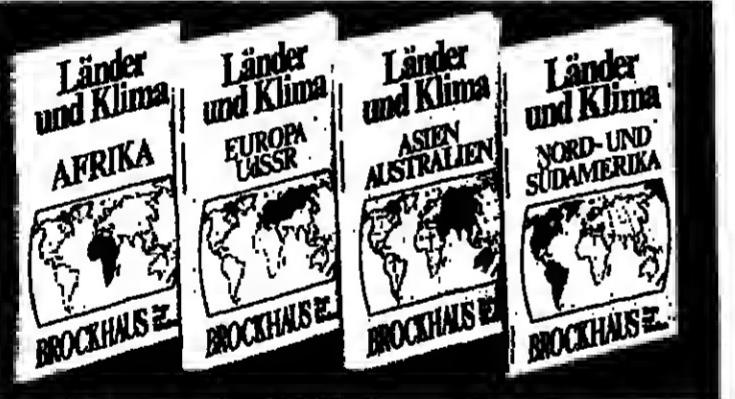
He believes there is an urgent need for professional advice and research to deal with the "spread of this epidemic of the occult," which he regards as a dangerous drug. There is a need for easily and personnel. His department in Freiburg University has a budget of DM5,000.

It is proposed to carry out another survey of the 850 psycho-social and advisory centres in the Federal Republic.

They should be able to give a picture of the extent of the "damage the occult is doing among young people."

Eckhart Kautz
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
für Deutschland, 9 March 1988)

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural statistics, on climate, population, trade and transport.

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in commerce, industry and the travel trade.

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Self-help groups help to cut health service costs

Since the end of the 1970s approximately 40,000 self-help groups have been established in the Federal Republic.

These groups are made up of people who have got together to find a way out of personal suffering or who want to plug a gap in the network of social care in the country.

What is new about this now is that they are increasingly getting support from government.

There are such distress reasons as unemployment and the threat of environmental pollution as well as a declining confidence that politicians can solve these problems.

Organisations that deal with a specific problem grow from the initiative of a small group. An example is the case of parents who have lost a child.

A Dortmund pastor brought two mothers and fathers together affected in this way, three years ago. Now there are similar associations in many cities in the Federal Republic.

In Berlin activities are mainly carried on by volunteers. Ulf Fink, senator responsible for health, social and family affairs, said:

"People can only work together in areas of life on a scale to which they can easily relate. For this reason we must

not further enlarge the welfare state. We must concentrate on the human factor."

Fink has created the so-called "Berlin Model," a support fund for self-help groups that is to get DM10m this year.

Münster, Munich, Bremen and Hamburg have created similar funds.

There are various reasons why people from different walks of life get together in a self-help group.

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■ EDUCATION

Silver jubilee of school for sick children in Münster

They have been able to bring him out of his anxieties and sense of isolation. She has encouraged him to make a new friend out of his small fellow-countryman.

In another room a specialist male and female teacher give their attention to six mentally handicapped boys and girls aged between 14 and 16.

They sing a nursery song and Gerhardt spontaneously gives a solo from his bed.

During the breakfast break he serves the others soft drinks from a large lemonade bottle and cake. This is quite an effort because the boy has to lie on his back all the time, but he manages with the help of the lady teacher.

The teachers' most important task is to train their young charges in acceptable social behaviour. It is particularly noticeable how the boys and girls have complete trust in their teachers.

This is made obvious by the friendly way they mix with each other. There is a relaxed atmosphere that the visitor notices immediately.

One lady teacher said that in the school the boys and girls learn that being ill is all part of the normal experience of living.

This idea was contained in the words that Frau Lange said to me when I left: "The sick person is also healthy." She said that we must address ourselves to him with that in mind and activate him.

The school teaches its curriculum, gives a sense of achievement and/or frustration, just like a normal school. But failures can be cushioned by the more personal contact with teachers.

The teacher is the person to whom the child can relate. He can pass on the children's worries and anxieties to their doctor.

Fran Schmidt-Ehmcke, a young teacher with additional art teaching qualifications, regards the sensitive give and take between teacher and pupil as a step towards helping the young people to develop and mature.

This is important within the enclosed atmosphere of a stay in a clinic for the adjustments necessary for a handicap that might last a lifetime.

Without the teacher being present both girls spoke without bias and positively about the time they had to spend demonstrating by games.

This is more difficult for two Turkish boys than their German schoolfellows. One of them has had to stay many months in the clinic for complicated orthopaedic treatment.

The fact is not lost on him that there is an increase in the number of children who are chronically ill and whose schooling needs must be taken into account since they are regularly admitted to hospital.

To these can be added children who have to go to hospital because of an accident or who have to spend long times in hospital for treatment for other reasons.

Between ten to 12 per cent of young people who are in hospital are long-stay patients.

This includes children suffering from cancer. Thanks to developments in medicine over the past ten years at least 65 per cent of them can be cured.

It is very important that these children should be given the will to overcome their sickness. It is also important that they should be psychologically and educationally prepared for rehabilitation.

What about children who have no hope of surviving? Why should they do lessons?

School achievement is not important for them. The important point is that they are in the company of teachers. This is a ques-

tion of letting them live for the day, for the moment and "expand the present by giving them personal affection."

The teacher, by their side in their need and anxiety, is a key figure for these children. Teachers who teach in hospitals are of particular help in these terminal situations.

For the past two years the school in Münster has borne a new name. It is called the Helen Keller School.

The efforts Helen Keller, an American woman born deaf and blind, made to overcome her handicaps are a symbol of hope and healing, of the will to conquer illness and the powers of the spirit in every person."

Helen Keller became a writer and social reformer with the help of Anne Sullivan.

During the breakfast break he serves the others soft drinks from a large lemonade bottle and cake. This is quite an effort because the boy has to lie on his back all the time, but he manages with the help of the lady teacher.

The purpose of the school in a hospital is, briefly, to enable schoolboys and girls to return to their classes without having fallen too far behind.

It dispels the worries they have about falling behind at school, coming in addition to the worries they already have about their health.

It would be one-sided, however, to define the hospital school only with this practical aim in mind.

Instruction that is personal and takes into consideration the child's psychological and psychiatric situation brings back into the young patient's life a sense of rhythm and normality.

This is a godsend for young patients whose illness has cut them off from the routine of life.

This idea was contained in the words that Frau Lange said to me when I left: "The sick person is also healthy." She said that we must address ourselves to him with that in mind and activate him.

She said that encouraging the healthy part of a person helped in overcome illness. Education for the sick implies involving teaching to the children's situation.

Fran Schmidt-Ehmcke has been working without pay since last July with the children, aged between four and six. All have early in life shown signs of special intelligence.

They can all read and write already. Nathaniel, aged five, has grown up bilingual and speaks fluent English.

There are at present 11 children in the nursery school. The parents pay DM200 a month for them to be there.

"Computers are an everyday thing in nursery schools in America. Gifted children get to know the new technology early in life," she said in an interview with this newspaper at the Hanover Fair.

She added: "We do not want to breed scientists in this group, but merely satisfy the demands highly-gifted children make of us." Experience has shown that highly intelligent children do not get on in normal nursery classes. They are isolated by the other children and threaten to become lone wolves.

To avoid this developing even further later in their education highly-gifted children should be especially prepared for school.

Brigitte Pollitt said: "They are children who are not satisfied with normal instruction. They think about things and go into them more deeply." Nevertheless they also like to play and roll around.

Over the past few years she has become convinced that society has not found the answer to dealing with highly-gifted children.

"In special areas geniuses such as Boris Becker or Steffi Graf are recognised, but when it is a matter of outstanding people in matters of the intellect, then there is a lack of understanding."

She wants to acquire a computer for her charges with a printer or a copying machine to be able to interest highly-gifted children in the new technology at their play...

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 March 1988)

Continued from page 14

something about their own problems and have control over their own lives."

No matter if it involves organic fruit and vegetables, health food shops, women's bookshops, transportation and junk removal collectives, trolley workshops — all involved are on the lookout for a job.

But they are also looking for a new kind of work and quality of life, which they cannot find in the normal job world.

They do not want to work under a management pyramid. They do not want work that pays no consideration to their environment.

They often do not earn much, but they have to put in quite a lot.

Costs from a health point of view would be much higher were it not for these self-help and other organisations. They provide people with stability and integrate them into society.

Only then will politicians take a different view of self-help groups.